Bradbury Museum's supercomputing exhibit gets updated

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LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, May 19, 2011—For decades, Los Alamos National Laboratory has been synonymous with supercomputing, achieving a number of milestones along the way. Those milestones and more are now showcased in a new, updated supercomputing exhibit on display at the Laboratory's Bradbury Science Museum. The grand opening of the exhibit, which features a lecture and reception, is from 4 to 6 p.m. on May 26 at the museum. The general public is invited.

"I'm so thrilled that the exhibit is upgraded now," said Linda Deck, director of the museum. She added that the new exhibit gives visitors a comprehensive look at supercomputing from its origins up to and beyond Roadrunner, the world's first computer to operate at speeds exceeding one petaflop—1 million billion calculations per second. The updated exhibit includes more of everything—interactive displays, artifacts from early computers like the FERMIAC mechanical computer, vacuum tubes from the MANIAC computer, and unique IBM cell blades from Roadrunner.

Updating the exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). "There is a foundation that provides grants for educational purposes and historical preservation," said LANL research engineer and IEEE member David Izraelevitz. "It seemed like a good match, where the IEEE could provide some seed funds to update this exhibit on supercomputing."

To see a video about the exhibit, visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLu9FCb4964.

The museum is located at 1350 Central Avenue in downtown Los Alamos. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays and Mondays from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (505)667-4444.